

From: William M. Edwards
To: Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 11/11/01 11:46am
Subject: U.S. v. Microsoft: Proposed Final Judgment

Hello,

Last week, I returned from vacation to learn about the proposed final judgement published by the U.S. Department of Justice. To say that I was shocked is an understatement.

I have worked in the computer industry for over 20 years, and over those years I had already learned of the many predatory and unscrupulous acts perpetrated by Microsoft. Indeed, I have myself been victimized by Microsoft's misdeeds by virtue of being an employee of a victimized company.

When the DOJ finally took action against Microsoft, I was elated. I felt that Microsoft would finally be punished for its blatantly illegal behavior and/or prevented from engaging in such behavior any longer. Judge Jackson's findings of fact further bolstered my optimism. The courts finally acknowledged the scope of Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior and the harmful effect it has on the computer industry.

Microsoft's attempts to delay justice through appeals did not surprise me, nor did the fact that Judge Jackson's findings of fact withstood scrutiny and re-examination. Microsoft is guilty and does not have a leg to stand on, and I was therefore optimistic that Microsoft would eventually receive judgement against them that was so long overdue.

The proposed final judgement is essentially letting Microsoft off scott free. As an American taxpayer, I am outraged that the DOJ is essentially throwing out a case that they have spent a so much time and a huge sum of money on, especially in the final stages of litigation they have already won. As an American who depends on the DOJ to protect him from those who engage in illegal activity and to punish those that do, I feel betrayed.

Some would say that Microsoft no longer is in a threatening position and that the anti-trust suit against Microsoft is no longer relevant. Hogwash. Microsoft still holds a monopoly on desktop PC computer systems and can still bundle any software with the Windows operating system that it so pleases under the guise as being part of the operating system, thus allowing them to continue their illegal anti-competitive behavior. The fact that they can leave the browser entwined within the operating system still allows them to illegally leverage their current Windows monopoly to extend the monopoly to Web-based applications. In short, Microsoft will continue with their past illegal behavior undeterred. The long-term effects of this on the computer industry and consumers in general will be detrimental.

This case reeks of politics in its worst form. Justice has been subverted by undue leniency by "friends in high places". I promise you that this will come back to bite you. Microsoft will once again be in the headlines and you will have some explaining to do.

Sincerely,
William M. Edwards